4666 - 27th Ave. No.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713
26 March 1968

Dear Harold:

Got your letter in today's mail. As busy as I know you are, even a postcard is greatly appreciated.

I will be glad to transcribe the tape for you. I do have the time and am determined to spend it however I can to regain my country. It is my country, regardless of those who would like to exile me for trying to speak my mind on this subject. My grandmother was an American Indian. Her son, my father, was a cousin to Robert Goddard - if that means anything to anyone but me.

Anything I can do for you will be held in confidence. I am alone all day, except for two cat-people, since my husband, Bob, works in Clearwater. This is a new situation as of yesterday and I am not quite sure how we will make out. We have both of us been night-people accustomed to almost completely opposite hours for simply years. He has worked as a musician and has decided to sell organs and teach. Anyway, there are no children overhear or read any thing and I do not encourage unnanounced visitors with two exceptions.

We have two tape recorders, both Sony. My own is the little 900 and takes 3¼" reels at 1 7/8 and 3 3/4 ips. Bob's is larger, takes up to 7" reels and plays all three speeds.

The same mail that brought your letter also brought one from Steffen in which he enclosed a letter from Gordon Rattray Taylor of the British SCIENCE JOURNAL. Mr. Taylor was noting two letters he had written Steffen and which Steffen did not receive. Steffen has been complaining that about half of what he sends is never heard of again and about half of what is addressed to him has not been received. Yours, however, is the only one he has mentioned as having been returned.

I will ask him to send his letter again if he still has it. Recently he did a clearing out of his material - magazines, books, and other things - but he did not say anything about his correspondence. I was the recipient of what he got rid of and there was no correspondence in it. Learning that you did not return his letter will drive him closer to the wall.

My concern over the clipping about Jim Garrison was mainly due to the fact that it appeared to have been based solely on the statements of Raggio and did not indicate any attempt to interview Mr. Garrison. Freedom of speech is a thing about which you must learn for the purpose of passing examinations in school. It, along with scientific objectivity, seems to exist only in the pages of test-books. An individual may say what he wishes. So long as it conforms in which case he is no longer an individual.

In case you are interested, your letter was postmarked the 23rd and arrived today, the 26th. Regular mail between here and New York takes only 24 hours. Airmail to California from here takes no more than 24 hours but from here to Tucson it takes five days and airmail to Tucson takes two days. Previous air-mail letters from you have taken only two days.

About Thornley. Harold, I am on <u>your</u> side. Had he not been preparing to go to New Orleans when he was on the radio, I can assure you he would have been asked different questions. If you will notice, he had come on with the intention of

speaking his own piece and then departing. But Bob did not allow that; he kept him on so that Thornley was not able to prejudice the listeners against either you or Garrison - whether intentionally or otherwise. What you said about Oswald's classification was emphasized further during following programs and to your credit. So far as I have been able to tell, Thornley has not been heard on the program since the one time - even as a caller. I will ask Bob Ruark about how Thornley spends his time and if and at what he works. I have always heard him referred to as a "free-lance writer".

Something bothers me. Curry's telephone. Wherever I have lived, if you take the receiver off so the phone can't ring, a caller hears a busy signal. I have not read that anyone said he got a busy signal in trying to call Curry that morning. They all said they didn't get an answer. And Mrs. Curry did say she took the receiver off, didn't she? Nothing about a cut-off switch? I don't remember if you covered this and can't look it up since a friend is reading your first two books. I asked Steffen and it was new to him so perhaps you didn't catch it. If you didn't, welcome to it.

I also wonder if perhaps Tippit was not killed where he was supposed to be. This thought comes about on account of the instructions from the dispatcher in the sheriff's office. 17/373. The 510 E. Jefferson address is persistent and seems to have come up here before it did on the police radio. Weren't the sheriff's units able to hear the police Chan. 1 as well as their own.

On p. 374, #104 says, "An officer shot here at 510 East Jefferson."

On p. 408, third call by "Citizen", the part in parentheses, "(Some other unknown voice came in with 'a police officer, 510 E. Jefferson')."

Could sheriff's #104 be the same as the "other unknown voice"? The timing is about right, working from the 1:16 time checks on both.

Another interesting thing here is that we find no instructions to squads to move to other areas to cover for cars that went to the scene, leaving their own areas unpatrolled. Remember, this was the alibi for the so-called orders to 87 and 78 earlier, to explain the presence of 78 where he did not belong.

By the way, the above parenthetical quote re 510 E. Jefferson is the first I find in the DPD log, giving a specific number on Jefferson. The first address was 404 - 10th St. so the sheriff's men did overhear the other one until they had heard it from their own dispatcher - and it appears they had indeed already heard it by the time the citizen gave the 404-10th St. address.

Probably, as I continue in the testimony, this will all be explained and I will be satisfied with it. At least for the moment. But in all the logs the 500-block of one street or another persists. Steffen is concentrating on the logs right now and checking on this question as well as some others we have raised. Soon as anything is firm we will pass it on to you.

By the way, once in a while Bob Ruark does not receive messages. It depends upon who takes the message. This is not frequent but often enough to be irritating to the one waiting for a return call. It has happened to me when I was trying to give him information for which he had asked me so I know it does occur. Soon as I can talk to him, I will ask if he knew you had called.

Tell Lil to take it easy till her ankle is all well so that she does not injure it again. My sympathies with her impatience.

Once more, I shall be glad to help however you think I can.

Sincerely,

Helen

Helen G. Hartmann